

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated May 23, 2006.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings on the ground that the feature of “the key backlight which is placed on a lower surface of the key input means and is lighted in a plurality of colors” must be shown or the feature canceled from the claims, (Office Action, page 2, paragraph 1, lines 1-4). Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the aforementioned quoted feature is already shown in the drawings, specifically in Fig. 6, which shows the operation key section 154, including a multicolor light-emitting section, the key backlight 155, (specification, page 13, lines 13-14), “which is placed on the lower surface of the operation key section 154 and lighted in a plurality of colors,” (specification as amended herein, page 13, lines 15-17). It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Muurinen, U.S. Patent No. 5,408,060. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to provide, in part, for, “[a] key input device comprising: key input means for inputting characters by key input in a plurality of character input modes; ... a key backlight which is placed on a lower surface of said key input means and is lighted in a plurality of colors; ... said key input means comprising a plurality of keys, said key backlight comprising light-emitting means located at lower surfaces of the respective keys and located below the bottom of the respective keys if the respective keys are viewed in a direction perpendicular to top surfaces of the respective keys.”

Antecedent basis for the amendment to claim 1 is found, for example, in the specification on page 13, lines 13-19, and in the drawings, for example, in Fig. 6.

In contrast, Muurinen only shows light-emitting means which are located between the bottom and top of the respective keys if the respective keys are viewed in a direction perpendicular to the top surface of the respective keys, as long as the light-emitting means are located at lower surfaces of the respective keys, (see Figs. 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13).

Since each of claims 2 and 9 is directly dependent on independent claim 1, each of claims 2 and 9 is allowable over Muurinen for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Muurinen.

Claims 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Muurinen in view of Kimura, U.S. Patent No. 6,762,740. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Since each of claims 3-8 is directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, each of claims 3-8 is allowable over Muurinen for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Muurinen.

With regard to Kimura, it does not disclose, teach, or suggest "light-emitting means ... located below the bottom of the respective keys if the respective keys are viewed in a direction perpendicular to top surfaces of the respective keys," as claimed in independent claim 1, and, therefore, in dependent claims 3-8.

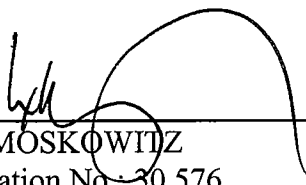
In addition, and with respect to dependent claim 8, applicant respectfully submits that Kimura does not describe or suggest key backlight lighting control means which, among other things, "refers to at least one of the key backlight application setting lighting color data and the key backlight application setting lighting position data while the application software is executed", as recited in amended claim 8.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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ON AUGUST 23, 2006


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